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MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
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CAPTAIN AMERICA™
AND
THE FALCON™
CAP'S LOVE STORY!
THEY MET IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH!
AND NOT EVEN THE FALCON CAN SAVE THEM!

1941! The world at war! And in a full-security laboratory, frail *Steve Rogers* became *Captain America*, the American *super-soldier!* For four thrilling years, he struck back at the Axis' treacherous attack— until a freak stroke of fate threw him into *suspended animation*...to awaken in the *mid-1960's*, a man *twenty years out of his time.* Since that day, *Captain America* has sought his destiny in this *brave new world.*

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **CAPTAIN AMERICA** AND THE **FALCON**™

JV 245

IN WAR AND CONSPIRACY AND IN THE MANY DEADLY WAYS INVENTED BY HUMANS TO SEIZE THE BOUNTIES THAT FLOW FROM POWER, THERE ARE QUIET PAUSES IN WHICH THE COMBATANTS SUDDENLY FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED BY THE UNFORSEEN--BY TENDERNESS--AND THE EYES OF INNOCENCE--AND A FACE THAT CAN HAUNT A MAN FOR A LIFETIME... NOW THE FALCON DOES HIS ACTION BIT--AS A COUNTER-POINT TO...

CAPTAIN AMERICA'S Love Story

IF YOU FOLLOWED THE PREVIOUS ISSUES (AND YOU SHOULD HAVE) YOU WOULD KNOW THAT CAP AND THE FALCON ARE HUNTING CONSPIRATORS WITH A SUPER-WEAPON AT THEIR COMMAND!

WE'VE TAKEN AN UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION--WITH A MASS OF EQUIPMENT AND HUNDREDS OF PERSONNEL--BUT THERE'S NOT A SIGN OF THE DEVILISH THINGS WE'RE LOOKING FOR--!

THE CONSPIRATORS ALWAYS SEEM TO BE A STEP AHEAD OF US! THE BATTLE WE FOUGHT TO GAIN THIS PLACE WAS A MEANINGLESS VICTORY!

MY TASK FORCE DIDN'T FIGHT IN VAIN, GENTLEMEN--THE TRAIL IS STILL HOT!

EDITOR·WRITER·ARTIST JACK KIRBY * INKER FRANK GIACOIA * LETTERER GASPAR * COLORIST MICHELE W. * CONSULTING ED. M. WOLFMAN

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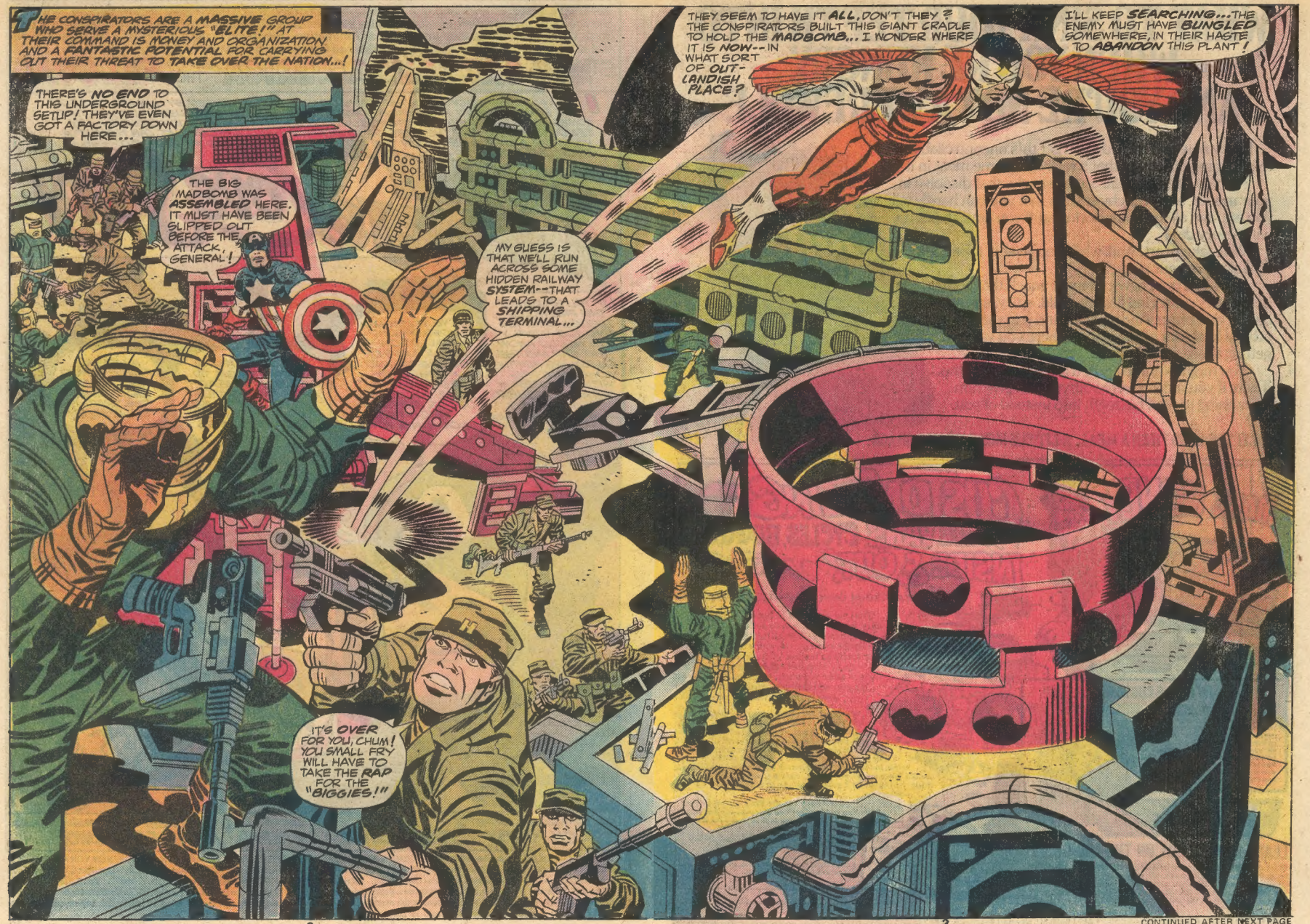
THE CONSPIRATORS ARE A MASSIVE GROUP WHO SERVE A MYSTERIOUS "ELITE!" AT THEIR COMMAND IS MONEY AND ORGANIZATION AND A FANTASTIC POTENTIAL FOR CARRYING OUT THEIR THREAT TO TAKE OVER THE NATION...!
THERE'S NO END TO THIS UNDERGROUND SETUP! THEY'VE EVEN GOT A FACTORY DOWN HERE...
THE BIG MADBOMB WAS ASSEMBLED HERE. IT MUST HAVE BEEN SLIPPED OUT BEFORE THE ATTACK, GENERAL!
MY GUESS IS THAT WE'LL RUN ACROSS SOME HIDDEN RAILWAY SYSTEM--THAT LEADS TO A SHIPPING TERMINAL...
IT'S OVER FOR YOU, CHUM! YOU SMALL FRY WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE RAP FOR THE "BIGGIES!"
THEY SEEM TO HAVE IT ALL, DON'T THEY? THE CONSPIRATORS BUILT THIS GIANT CRADLE TO HOLD THE MADBOMB... I WONDER WHERE IT IS NOW--IN WHAT SORT OF OUT-LANDISH PLACE?
I'LL KEEP SEARCHING...THE ENEMY MUST HAVE BUNGLED SOMEWHERE, IN THEIR HASTE TO ABANDON THIS PLANT!

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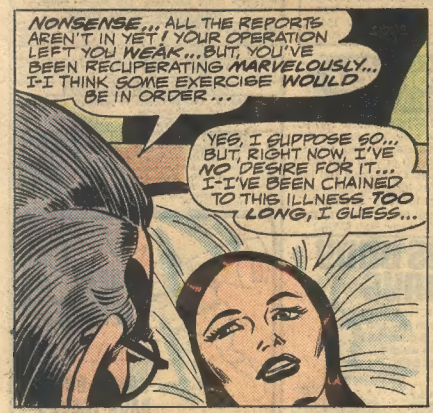
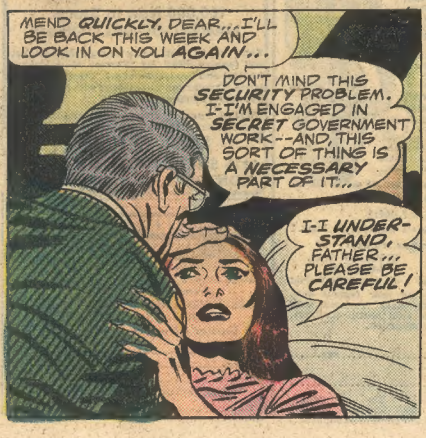
SPECIFICATION CHA
"BIG DADDY" MAY BE GONE, BUT HE LEFT HIS FIGURE BEHIND...
HE'S AS LARGE AS A TITAN MISSILE!
A SIMULATED BRAIN, ENCASED TO BROADCAST MADNESS! IT'S A FRIGHTENING WEAPON!
THE GENERAL REALIZES HOW FEEBLE HIS ESTIMATE REALLY IS... HE KNOWS THAT A PEANUT-SIZED MADBOMB HAD DESTROYED A TOWN... THAT ONE, ONLY SLIGHTLY LARGER, HAS WRECKED A CITY... IT IS PAINFULLY OBVIOUS WHAT "BIG DADDY" CAN DO!
THERE'S NO DOUBT OF IT! WHEN "BIG DADDY" GOES OPERATIONAL-- IT WILL DESTROY THIS COUNTRY!
HAVE YOU FOUND ANY CLUES HERE, FALCON?
NOTHING THAT WILL HELP US!
WHOEVER ORGANIZED THE CONSPIRACY HAS DONE A THOROUGH JOB OF PLANNING!--AND TIMING!
WE HAVEN'T BEEN OUT-FOUGHT. WE'VE MERELY BEEN OUT-THOUGHT!
THERE MUST BE SOME NEW APPROACH WE CAN TAKE!
THERE IS... I'VE RADIOED OUR FINDINGS TO WASHINGTON. THEY'VE ORDERED ME TO WRAP UP THIS HIDEOUT. I'VE ALSO GOT NEW ORDERS FOR YOU BOTH...
...IT SEEMS THEIR AGENTS HAVE SPOTTED MASON HARDING, THE ELECTRONICS GENIUS--HE VANISHED FROM SIGHT, TWO YEARS AGO!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO US, GENERAL?
IT MEANS THAT WASHINGTON IS CONVINCED THAT HARDING IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY--THAT, PERHAPS, HE CONCEIVED AND DESIGNED THE MADBOMB!
YOU TWO, MUST BE THERE WHEN HARDING IS CAPTURED!! THE CHANCES ARE GOOD, THAT HARDING KNOWS WHERE THE "BIG DADDY" BOMB HAS BEEN PLANTED!!

DAYS LATER, AT A SEASIDE ESTATE ON THE EAST COAST...
YEAH... Y'GOT A FULL SCHEDULE--AND ALL THAT JAZZ!
AS YOU CAN SEE, CAROL... I MUST BE LEAVING... A-ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER?
"BETTER" IS A RELATIVE TERM, FATHER... I-I FEEL STRONGER.. I SUPPOSE I'M READY TO WALK ABOUT... BUT, THAT WON'T CURE MY ILLNESS...
MAKE IT FAST, PROF... TIME'S RUNNING OUT--! WE CAN'T STAY TOO LONG IN ONE PLACE.


NONSENSE... ALL THE REPORTS AREN'T IN YET! YOUR OPERATION LEFT YOU WEAK... BUT, YOU'VE BEEN RECUPERATING MARVELOUSLY... I-I THINK SOME EXERCISE WOULD BE IN ORDER...
YES, I SUPPOSE SO... BUT, RIGHT NOW, I'VE NO DESIRE FOR IT... I-I'VE BEEN CHAINED TO THIS ILLNESS TOO LONG, I GUESS...


MEND QUICKLY, DEAR... I'LL BE BACK THIS WEEK AND LOOK IN ON YOU AGAIN...
DON'T MIND THIS SECURITY PROBLEM. I-I'M ENGAGED IN SECRET GOVERNMENT WORK--AND, THIS SORT OF THING IS A NECESSARY PART OF IT...
I-I UNDERSTAND, FATHER... PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

WE'LL SEE THAT Y'KEEP TRUCKIN', PROF! OUR OUTFIT'S TAKIN' CARE OF YOUR KID TOO!
THIS WAY, PROF. THE CAR'S WAITIN'!
NOW, LET'S GO... Y'DON'T WAN'NER T'SEE Y'CRYIN', DO YA?

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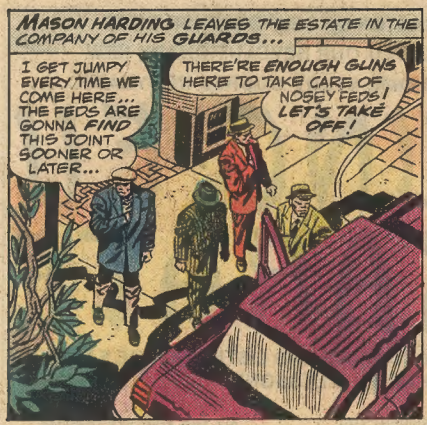
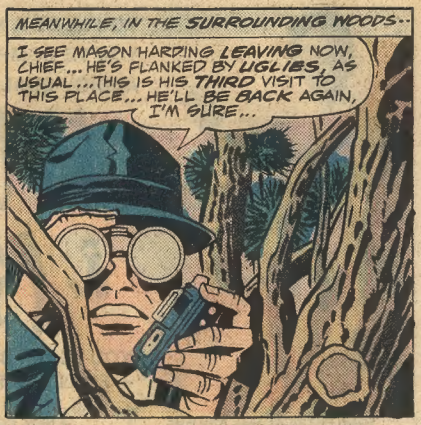
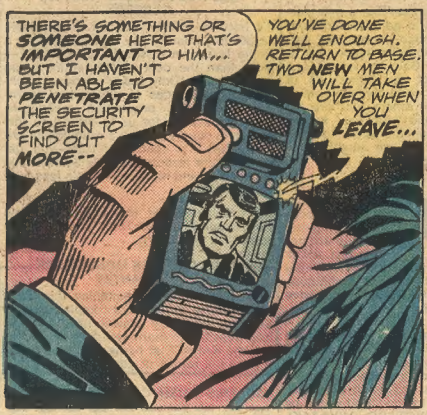
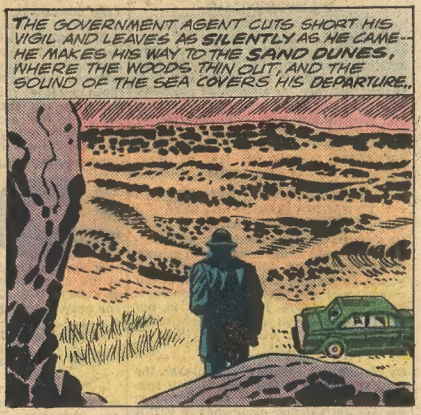
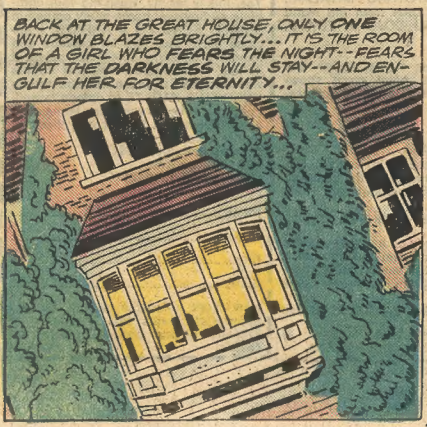
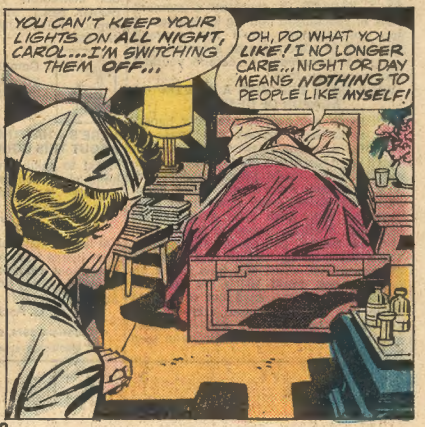

MASON HARDING LEAVES THE ESTATE IN THE COMPANY OF HIS GUARDS...
I GET JUMPY EVERY TIME WE COME HERE... THE FEDS ARE GONNA FIND THIS JOINT SOONER OR LATER...
THERE'RE ENOUGH GUNS HERE TO TAKE CARE OF NOSEY FEDS! LET'S TAKE OFF!

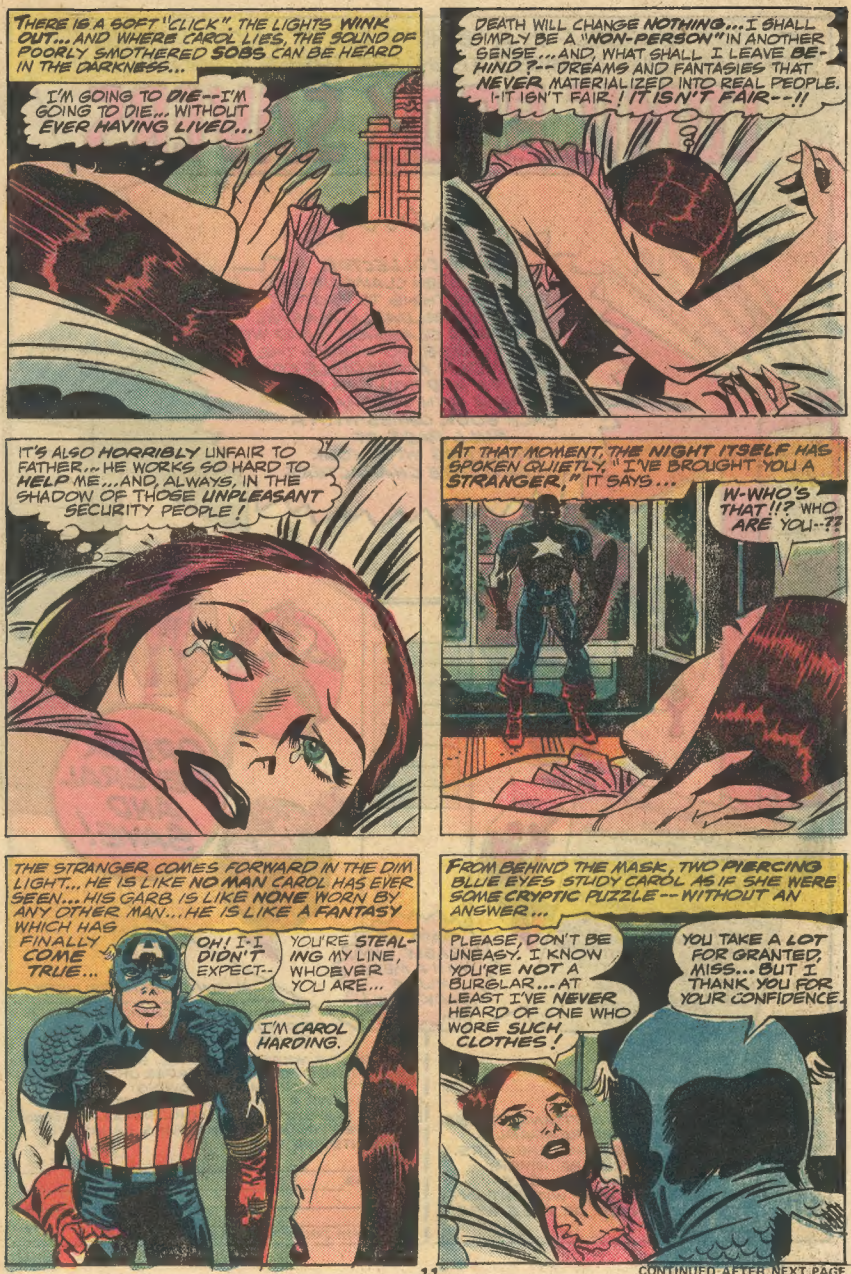

MEANWHILE, IN THE SURROUNDING WOODS--
I SEE MASON HARDING LEAVING NOW, CHIEF... HE'S FLANKED BY UGLIES, AS USUAL...THIS IS HIS THIRD VISIT TO THIS PLACE... HE'LL BE BACK AGAIN, I'M SURE...


THERE'S SOMETHING OR SOMEONE HERE THAT'S IMPORTANT TO HIM... BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PENETRATE THE SECURITY SCREEN TO FIND OUT MORE--
YOU'VE DONE WELL ENOUGH. RETURN TO BASE. TWO NEW MEN WILL TAKE OVER WHEN YOU LEAVE...


THE GOVERNMENT AGENT CUTS SHORT HIS VIGIL AND LEAVES AS SILENTLY AS HE CAME-- HE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE SAND DUNES, WHERE THE WOODS THIN OUT, AND THE SOUND OF THE SEA COVERS HIS DEPARTURE...


BACK AT THE GREAT HOUSE, ONLY ONE WINDOW BLAZES BRIGHTLY... IT IS THE ROOM OF A GIRL WHO FEARS THE NIGHT--FEARS THAT THE DARKNESS WILL STAY--AND ENGULF HER FOR ETERNITY...


YOU CAN'T KEEP YOUR LIGHTS ON ALL NIGHT, CAROL...I'M SWITCHING THEM OFF...
OH, DO WHAT YOU LIKE! I NO LONGER CARE... NIGHT OR DAY MEANS NOTHING TO PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF!


THERE IS A SOFT "CLICK". THE LIGHTS WINK OUT... AND WHERE CAROL LIES, THE SOUND OF POORLY SMOTHERED SOBS CAN BE HEARD IN THE DARKNESS...
I'M GOING TO DIE--I'M GOING TO DIE... WITHOUT EVER HAVING LIVED...
DEATH WILL CHANGE NOTHING... I SHALL SIMPLY BE A "NON-PERSON" IN ANOTHER SENSE... AND, WHAT SHALL I LEAVE BEHIND?--DREAMS AND FANTASIES THAT NEVER MATERIALIZED INTO REAL PEOPLE. I-IT ISN'T FAIR! IT ISN'T FAIR--!!
IT'S ALSO HORRIBLY UNFAIR TO FATHER... HE WORKS SO HARD TO HELP ME... AND, ALWAYS, IN THE SHADOW OF THOSE UNPLEASANT SECURITY PEOPLE!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE NIGHT ITSELF HAS SPOKEN QUIETLY, "I'VE BROUGHT YOU A STRANGER," IT SAYS...
W-WHO'S THAT!!? WHO ARE YOU--??
THE STRANGER COMES FORWARD IN THE DIM LIGHT... HE IS LIKE NO MAN CAROL HAS EVER SEEN... HIS GARB IS LIKE NONE WORN BY ANY OTHER MAN... HE IS LIKE A FANTASY WHICH HAS FINALLY COME TRUE...
OH! I-I DIDN'T EXPECT--
YOU'RE STEALING MY LINE, WHOEVER YOU ARE...
I'M CAROL HARDING.
FROM BEHIND THE MASK, TWO PIERCING BLUE EYES STUDY CAROL AS IF SHE WERE SOME CRYPTIC PUZZLE--WITHOUT AN ANSWER...
PLEASE, DON'T BE UNEASY. I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A BURGLAR... AT LEAST I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ONE WHO WORE SUCH CLOTHES!
YOU TAKE A LOT FOR GRANTED, MISS... BUT I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONFIDENCE.

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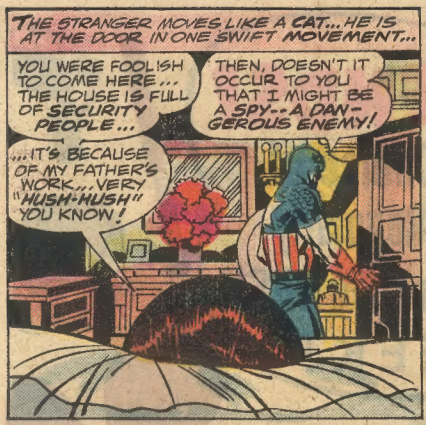
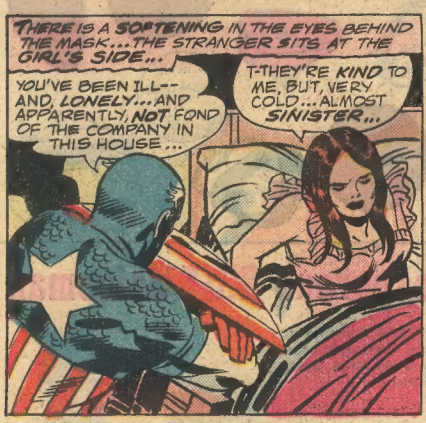
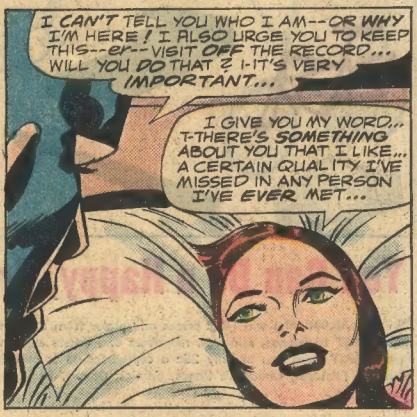

THE STRANGER MOVES LIKE A CAT... HE IS AT THE DOOR IN ONE SWIFT MOVEMENT...
YOU WERE FOOLISH TO COME HERE... THE HOUSE IS FULL OF SECURITY PEOPLE...
THEN, DOESN'T IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT I MIGHT BE A SPY--A DANGEROUS ENEMY!
...IT'S BECAUSE OF MY FATHER'S WORK... VERY "HUSH-HUSH" YOU KNOW!

BUT YOU TRUST ME--I CAN SEE IT IN YOUR EYES... YOU'RE FAR MORE FOOLISH THAN I, YOUNG LADY!
I-I MUST GO. I'M SORRY TO HAVE--
OH, DON'T LEAVE YET! WE-WE COULD TALK--ABOUT HUMAN SECRETS INSTEAD OF MEANINGLESS THINGS MADE FROM BITS AND PIECES IN SOME ANTISEPTIC LABORATORY...


THERE IS A SOFTENING IN THE EYES BEHIND THE MASK... THE STRANGER SITS AT THE GIRL'S SIDE...
YOU'VE BEEN ILL--AND, LONELY... AND APPARENTLY, NOT FOND OF THE COMPANY IN THIS HOUSE...
T-THEY'RE KIND TO ME, BUT, VERY COLD... ALMOST SINISTER...

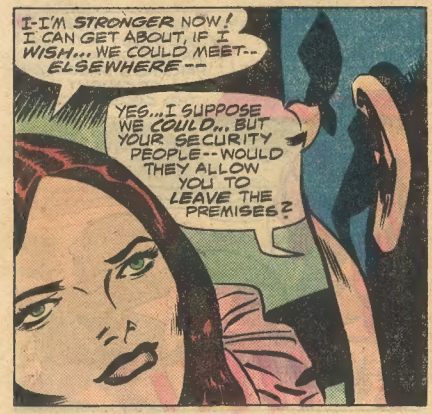

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHO I AM--OR WHY I'M HERE! I ALSO URGE YOU TO KEEP THIS--er--VISIT OFF THE RECORD... WILL YOU DO THAT? I-IT'S VERY IMPORTANT...
I GIVE YOU MY WORD... T-THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT I LIKE... A CERTAIN QUALITY I'VE MISSED IN ANY PERSON I'VE EVER MET...

AN INNOCENT--CAUGHT IN THE WEB OF CONSPIRACY. THAT FOOL, MASON HARDING, HAS PUT HIS OWN DAUGHTER IN THE WORST OF SITUATIONS!
YOU SEEM LOST IN THOUGHT. IF YOU SHARE THEM WITH ME, I'LL GLADLY TELL YOU MINE.

LIKE YOURSELF, I THINK ABOUT PEOPLE. I THINK OF THE CONFLICTS WHICH ARISE BECAUSE OF THEIR DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF "RIGHT AND WRONG!"
THAT'S A HEAVY THOUGHT. I THINK YOU'RE A VERY SENSITIVE PERSON!

I'VE SEEN MY SHARE OF TROUBLE, MISS...
BUT, I MUST GO... IT--IT ISN'T PROPER--
NO! NO!! NOT WHEN WE'VE JUST BEGUN TO KNOW EACH OTHER--!

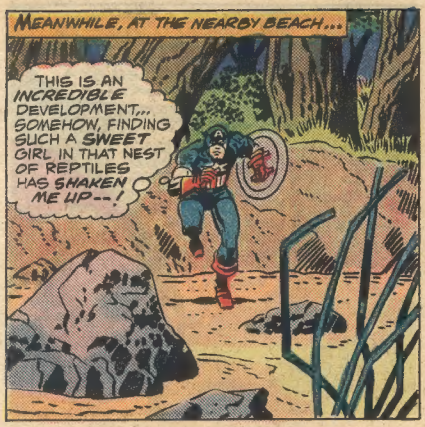
YOU'RE A STRANGE YOUNG WOMAN--TO DISPLAY SUCH INTEREST IN A MAN WHOSE FACE IS CONCEALED BY A MASK...
I-IT MAY SEEM STRANGE TO YOU... BUT, I HAVE THIS FEELING -- THAT I'D--I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU AGAIN--! WILL I SEE YOU-- AGAIN?


I-I'M STRONGER NOW! I CAN GET ABOUT, IF I WISH... WE COULD MEET-- ELSEWHERE--
YES...I SUPPOSE WE COULD... BUT YOUR SECURITY PEOPLE--WOULD THEY ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE THE PREMISES?

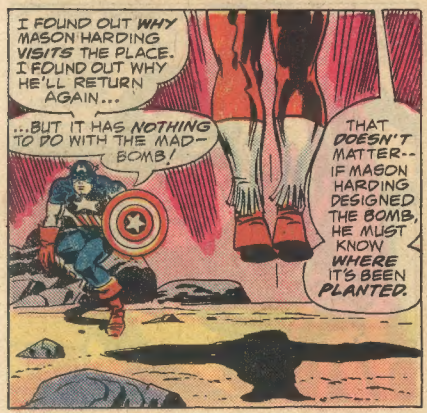
OF COURSE... IT'S NOT AS IF I'M A PRISONER IN THIS HOUSE!
TOMORROW, THEN. IT'S A SHORT STROLL TO THE BEACH... THE SEA BREEZE MAY BE GOOD FOR YOU...

BEFORE CAROL CAN ANSWER, THE TALL STRANGER IS GONE... THE NIGHT, WHICH HAS BROUGHT HIM, HAS TAKEN HIM BACK.
TOMORROW--AT THE BEACH... I'LL BE THERE... I'LL BE THERE--!

I SUPPOSE ONE COULD CALL IT MADNESS... BUT I SOMEHOW BELIEVE IT'S A MIRACLE! THE MAN BEHIND THAT MASK IS WORTH THE RISK OF HANGING ONE'S HEART ON A ROSY DREAM...
I MUST TAKE THAT RISK...


MEANWHILE, AT THE NEARBY BEACH...
THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE DEVELOPMENT... SOMEHOW, FINDING SUCH A SWEET GIRL IN THAT NEST OF REPTILES HAS SHAKEN ME UP--!

CAP LOOKS TO THE MOONLIT SKY AND SPOTS THE SOARING FIGURE OF HIS UNIQUE PARTNER...
DOWN HERE, FALCON. I'VE BEEN INSIDE THE HOUSE...
GOOD DEAL! I KEPT THE GUARDS BUSY... THEY THOUGHT I WAS SOME GIANT NIGHT BIRD...


I FOUND OUT WHY MASON HARDING VISITS THE PLACE. I FOUND OUT WHY HE'LL RETURN AGAIN...
...BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE MAD-BOMB!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER-- IF MASON HARDING DESIGNED THE BOMB, HE MUST KNOW WHERE IT'S BEEN PLANTED.

THE POINT IS THAT WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM DURING HIS NEXT VISIT TO THAT HOUSE!
WE CAN'T RISK A SHOOTOUT WITH HIS ARMED GUARDS -- HARDING'S DAUGHTER WILL BE CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE!

THAT'S RIGHT. HARDING'S DAUGHTER IS THE REASON FOR HIS VISITS. SHE'S RECOVERING FROM AN ILLNESS. AND SHE'S NOT INVOLVED IN THE CONSPIRACY!
IN FACT, TO SEE HER--TO TALK WITH HER--IS A HAUNTINGLY MOVING EXPERIENCE-- NOTHING MUST HAPPEN TO THAT GIRL!!

OH, GREAT!! THAT'S JUST GREAT, MAN!! DOES THAT MEAN WE WAIT UNTIL SHE'S WELL ENOUGH TO LEAVE FOR A VACATION??
NO!! IF LUCK IS WITH US, SHE'LL BE ON THE BEACH HERE TOMORROW...
I HAVE A PLAN WHICH DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON HER SHOWING UP!!

ALTHOUGH THE SKIES ARE OVERCAST, THE FOLLOWING DAY, FATE SMILES ON THE FORTUNES OF CAP AND THE FALCON... CAROL HARDING APPEARS ON THE BEACH...
I HOPE HE MEANT WHAT-- WHAT HE SAID.. I-I'D FEEL AWFUL IF HE DIDN'T COME...
SUDDENLY--!
THE MAN ON THAT HORSE--I-IT'S HIM! I JUST KNOW IT'S HIM!!
IT'S HER! IT'S CAROL HARDING! THIS IS GOING TO BE A FINE DAY AFTER ALL!
er--GOOD MORNING! THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL ANIMAL YOU'RE RIDING! IT MUST BE FUN TO TAKE HIM THROUGH THE SURF!
IF YOU'D COME TO JOIN ME, I'D BE GLAD TO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE!
YOU'RE VERY KIND. BUT, I--
I'M MERELY REPAYING KINDNESS WITH KINDNESS! JOIN ME, CAROL... YOU'RE MY GUEST, THIS TIME!
IT IS YOU, AFTER ALL!
THE NAME IS STEVE... I THOUGHT IT BEST TO LEAVE MY MASK AT HOME. YOU DESERVE AS MUCH HONESTY AND FAIRNESS AS A MAN LIKE MYSELF CAN GIVE!
THANK YOU, STEVE. I ACCEPT YOU AS A FRIEND-- AND A CHARMING MYSTERY...
GOOD! YOU'VE JUST EARNED YOUR FREE RIDE ON "KING-PIN!"
HE'S THE FINEST HORSE AT THE LOCAL RIDING ACADEMY. WHAT'S MORE, HE'S KNOWN TO BE GENTLE WITH THOSE WHO APPRECIATE HIM...
THE WEATHERMAN WAS WRONG... THIS IS GOING TO BE A MARVELOUS DAY...

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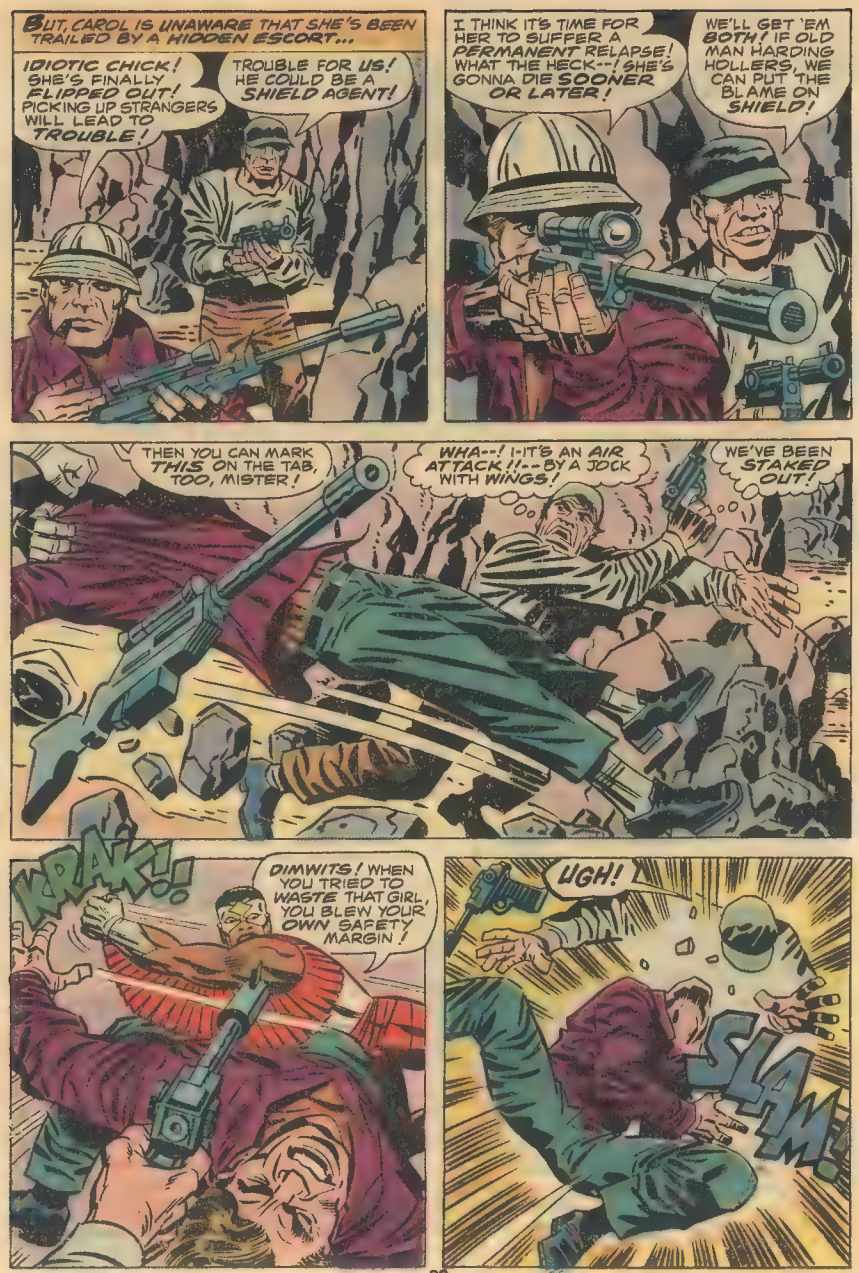
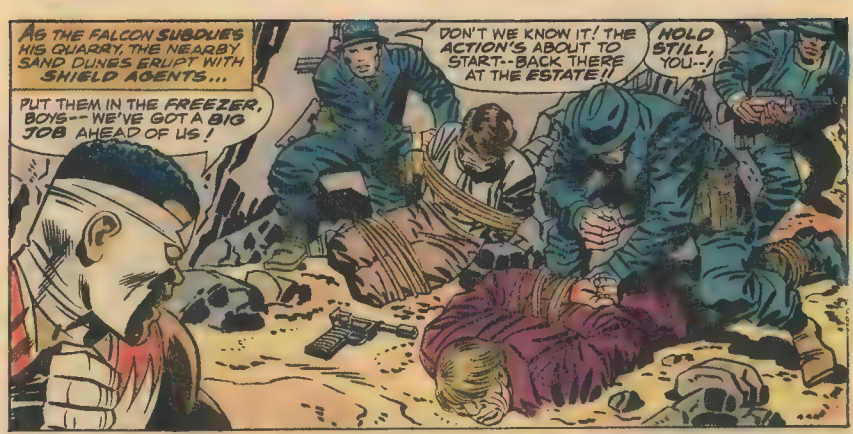
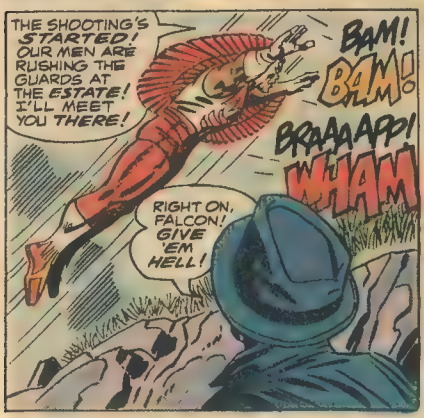
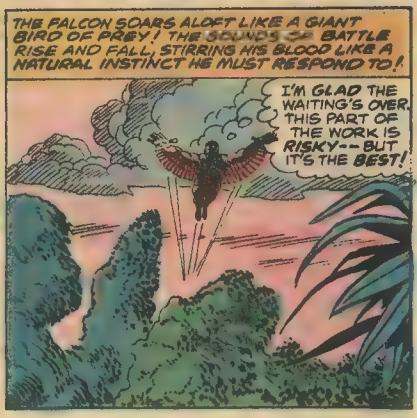
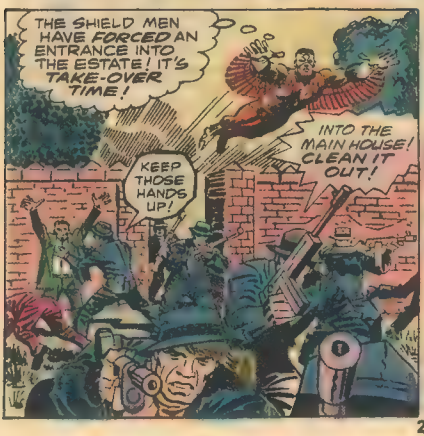
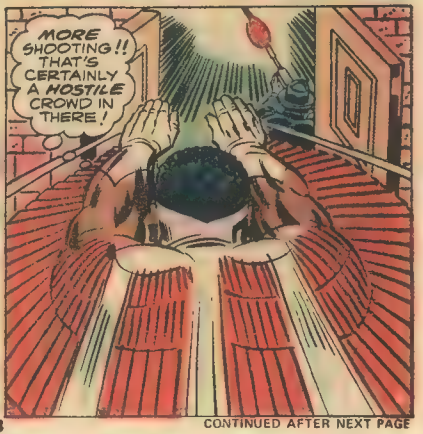

BUT, CAROL IS UNAWARE THAT SHE'S BEEN TRAILED BY A HIDDEN ESCORT...
IDIOTIC CHICK! SHE'S FINALLY FLIPPED OUT! PICKING UP STRANGERS WILL LEAD TO TROUBLE!
TROUBLE FOR US! HE COULD BE A SHIELD AGENT!
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR HER TO SUFFER A PERMANENT RELAPSE! WHAT THE HECK--! SHE'S GONNA DIE SOONER OR LATER!
WE'LL GET 'EM BOTH! IF OLD MAN HARDING HOLLERS, WE CAN PUT THE BLAME ON SHIELD!
THEN YOU CAN MARK THIS ON THE TAB, TOO, MISTER!
WHA--! I-IT'S AN AIR ATTACK!!--BY A JOCK WITH WINGS!
WE'VE BEEN STAKED OUT!
KRAK!!
DIMWITS! WHEN YOU TRIED TO WASTE THAT GIRL, YOU BLEW YOUR OWN SAFETY MARGIN!
UGH!
SLAM!


AS THE FALCON SUBDUES HIS QUARRY, THE NEARBY SAND DUNES ERUPT WITH SHIELD AGENTS...
DON'T WE KNOW IT! THE ACTION'S ABOUT TO START--BACK THERE AT THE ESTATE!!
HOLD STILL, YOU--!
PUT THEM IN THE FREEZER, BOYS--WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB AHEAD OF US!


THE SHOOTING'S STARTED! OUR MEN ARE RUSHING THE GUARDS AT THE ESTATE! I'LL MEET YOU THERE!
BAM!
BAM!
BRAAAAPP!
WHAM
RIGHT ON, FALCON! GIVE 'EM HELL!


THE FALCON SOARS ALOFT LIKE A GIANT BIRD OF PREY! THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE RISE AND FALL, STIRRING HIS BLOOD LIKE A NATURAL INSTINCT HE MUST RESPOND TO!
I'M GLAD THE WAITING'S OVER. THIS PART OF THE WORK IS RISKY--BUT IT'S THE BEST!


THE SHIELD MEN HAVE FORCED AN ENTRANCE INTO THE ESTATE! IT'S TAKE-OVER TIME!
INTO THE MAIN HOUSE! CLEAN IT OUT!
KEEP THOSE HANDS UP!



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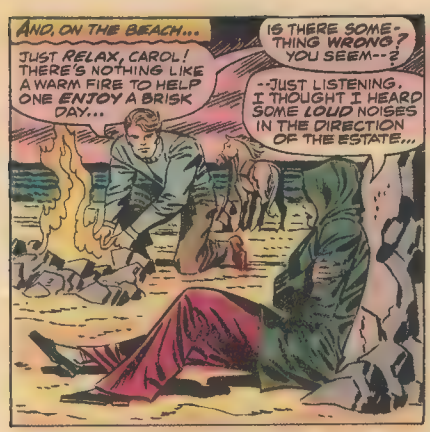
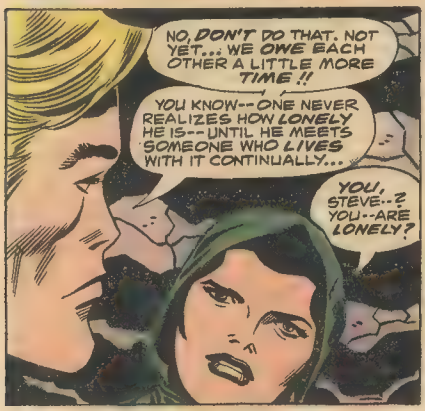
INSIDE THE GREAT HOUSE, DEATH FLIES NOISILY IN ALL DIRECTIONS!! RESISTANCE TO THE RAID IS SAVAGE AND INTENSE! THE FALCON NOW REALIZES THE GRIM FATE THAT CAROL MIGHT HAVE SUFFERED IN THIS SHOOTOUT!
LET GO EASY, MISTER! OR I'LL DROP YOU HARD!! DO IT!! DO IT!!
OKAY! OKAY!--- I KNOW WHEN I'VE HAD IT!
BLAST YOU G-GUYS! I'LL-- AAA--!!
RUSH 'EM!! TAKE 'EM FAST AND DISARM THEM!!
DON'T CHAGE THOSE WHO TRY TO USE THE REAR DOORS!! THEY'RE COVERED!!

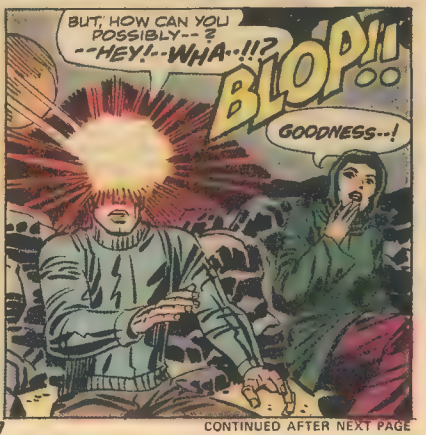

AND, ON THE BEACH...
JUST RELAX, CAROL! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A WARM FIRE TO HELP ONE ENJOY A BRISK DAY...
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG? YOU SEEM--?
--JUST LISTENING. I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME LOUD NOISES IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ESTATE...

THE RAID IS ON! I KNOW THE FALCON WILL SEE IT THROUGH WITH MINIMUM DIFFICULTY!
PERHAPS I SHOULD CUT THIS OUTING SHORT AND GO BACK THERE...


NO, DON'T DO THAT. NOT YET... WE OWE EACH OTHER A LITTLE MORE TIME!!
YOU KNOW--ONE NEVER REALIZES HOW LONELY HE IS--UNTIL HE MEETS SOMEONE WHO LIVES WITH IT CONTINUALLY...
YOU, STEVE--? YOU--ARE LONELY?

YES--BECAUSE, IN THESE FEW MOMENTS WITH YOU, I'VE FOUND A SENSE OF QUIET CONTENTMENT I SEEM TO HAVE LOST SOMEWHERE IN THE DISTANT PAST...
BUT, THAT HARDLY SEEMS BELIEVABLE.

WHY? WHAT IS THERE ABOUT ME WHICH LEADS YOU TO SAY THAT? I MAY BE A VERY DULL FELLOW!
HORSE FEATHERS! YOU'RE A MAN WITH A RECORD OF MANY BATTLES! --A WONDERFUL MAN OF ACTION!



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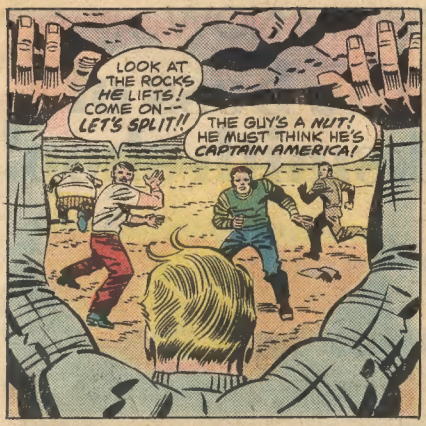
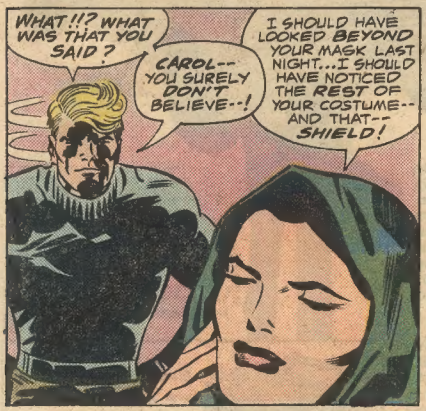
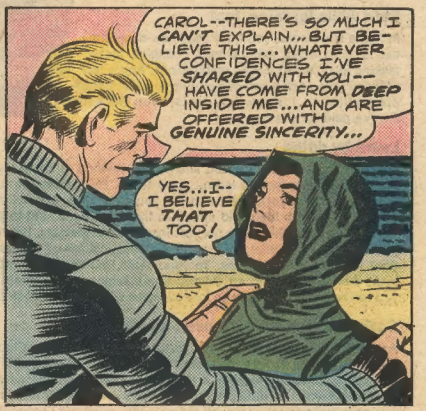
HAHAHAHA!
LOOKIT THE EXPRESSION ON THE COLLEGE BOY THERE! HAHA!
JAKE'S GARAGE
DON'T GET YER WIND UP, COLLEGE BOY. IT'S NOT LIKE YA GOT PUT IN THE HOSPITAL BY A BAD THROW--!
THAT'S TRUE, FELLAS. BUT IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU PLAYED YOUR GAME IN SOME OTHER AREA...
IT'S A BIG BEACH... --LOTS OF SPACE... USE IT WISELY...
THE ANSWER TO CAP'S SUGGESTION RESULTS IN A RUDE TUG-OF-WAR...
TAKE IT EASY! I WAS GOING TO RETURN THE BALL!
SO RETURN IT! DON'T GIVE SPEECHES LIKE SOME POLITICIAN!
LET GO OF THAT BALL, COLLEGE BOY!
YOU HEARD 'IM!
--IF YOU INSIST, I'M ONLY TOO GLAD TO OBLIGE!!!
WHAP!
GET 'IM!-- UGH!!
POW!
W-WHERE DID THAT COLLEGE BOY GO??
SORRY, PIGGY!
YOU FELLAS STILL WANT TO PLAY GAMES?
OWWW! W-WHAT HAPPENED? Y'BELTED ME FLAT ON MY BACK!
COLLEGE BOY'S GOT SOME FAST REFLEXES--- BUT I'LL SLOW HIM DOWN!
DON'T ACT LIKE A CHILD! THROWING ROCKS IS A DANGEROUS SPORT!!



THEY'RE GONE!
A LITTLE SIMPLE PSYCHOLOGY CAN MELLOW THE MOST AGGRESSIVE OF INTENTIONS!
IS THAT YOUR PHILOSOPHY-- CAPTAIN AMERICA?


WHAT!!? WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID?
CAROL-- YOU SURELY DON'T BELIEVE--!
I SHOULD HAVE LOOKED BEYOND YOUR MASK LAST NIGHT...I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED THE REST OF YOUR COSTUME-- AND THAT-- SHIELD!


CAROL--THERE'S SO MUCH I CAN'T EXPLAIN...BUT BELIEVE THIS...WHATEVER CONFIDENCES I'VE SHARED WITH YOU-- HAVE COME FROM DEEP INSIDE ME...AND ARE OFFERED WITH GENUINE SINCERITY...
YES...I-- I BELIEVE THAT TOO!

I'M GLAD OF THAT... YOU KNOW, FOR A GIRL WHO'S HAD SO LITTLE COMMUNICATION WITH PEOPLE, YOU DISPLAY AN AMAZING AMOUNT OF WISDOM!
THAT'S NOT SO DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN, STEVE!

TRAGEDY OF THE HEART IS MERELY THE LESSER OF THE BLOWS TO BE SUFFERED BY CAPTAIN AMERICA!!

DON'T MISS WHAT FOLLOWS IN THE NEXT ISSUE--WHEN CAP MEETS...

"THE MAN WHO SOLD THE UNITED STATES!"

LET'S RAP WITH CAP

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP 11TH FLOOR 575 MADISON AVE. NEW YORK, 10022 N.Y.

Dear Marvel and Jack,

You bet your sweet association, Jack Kirby is back! Captain America lives again! While other artists draw, Jack Kirby paints. No one else can establish heroism as well as King Kirby. If he doesn't catapult Cap back to the top (where he deservedly belongs), I don't know if anyone can.

Tim Krenke
2730 North 46th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53201

We're sure that whatever the King does, he'll quickly bring Cap back into your favor, Tim; and we're sorry that you feel the Red, White, and Blue Avenger has stumbled in the past. But look out for the future— the best is yet to come!

Dear Gang,

After catching diabetes from the letter column in CAPTAIN AMERICA # 195, I decided some good old constructive criticism was needed. Of course, the issue itself helped me make that decision.

My main complaint is D. Bruce Berry. As inker, I suggest either Vince Colletta or Frank Giacoia.

This super-scientific plotline you've got going is fine, there is nothing wrong with it. But don't have these types of plots every issue, mix them up. Have Cap battle some super-science group for a few issues, then put him up against Batroc or Living Laser or some other superbaddie. However, if there is a steady diet of the super-science plots, Captain America will go the same route as (Devilish Competitor's books deleted) did. And that can't happen to Captain America.

Bill Kropfhauser
480 East Beck Street
Columbus, OH 43206

You should be glad to know (as your eyes have already told you if you've read this issue) that Frank Giacoia is here and plans to stay. And as for plots, well, we're not about to let the cat out of the bag about what happens in Cap's life *after* the completion of the current saga in ish #200. But keep watchin', Bill, we're sure to surprise ya!

Dear Jack,

I've got a few questions for you:

1) What else besides CAPTAIN AMERICA will you be doing for Marvel in the immediate future?

2) I'm dying to see you on the FANTASTIC FOUR again... any plans for that book?

3) Just because you've started doing CAP, are you going to stop doing cover work for Marvel?

4) Planning to unleash any new characters of your own for the Marvel line?

The Marveriter
Box 4112 S.R.A.
Anchorage, AL 99502

We've got a few answers for ya:

1&4) Jolly Jack has been awfully busy these past few months... busy whipping up a summer surprise which will be hitting the newsstands in June. It's an adaptation of a movie which you might have heard of— 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY! In his spare time, Jack pencilled and scripted the CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL, and created a new strip about a guy called Ikaris the Eternal which should be in your sweaty little palms next month. Look out for 'em, Marv— they shouldn't be missed!

2) Nope. Sorry.

3) Nay!! Perish forbid! And just to prove we're telling ya the honest-to-Aunt Petunia truth, just take a look at the cover of MARVEL PREMIERE #30, now on sale!

Dear Marvel,

I open to page one and there it is— Stan Lee/Writer; Jack Kirby/Artist; Frank Giacoia/Inker; Sam Rosen/Letterer. Then suddenly— POOF!! My dream was over.

Darn it!

Frank Alexander
Route 292
Holmes, NY 12531

Dreams can come true, Frank. They've come true in the past, and they can come true again in the future. So don't despair. Some day the super-team of Lee and Kirby may once again be joined. And what Marvelites have joined, let no Unbeliever put asunder, eh, Frankie?

Dear Jack,

Like any avid Marvel fan, I am really happy to see you back at Madcap Marvel.

Having you back on Captain America is, to say the least, great. Having read the latest three issues, it is easy to tell why you are heralded as "The Michelangelo of the comic book!"

Henry Marchand
799 Second Street
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Why, Hank?

Is it because Jack draws only while lying on his back? Is it because his astounding artwork is scrawled on pieces of plaster torn from his bathroom ceiling? Is it because he's five hundred years old?

"No!" comes the cry from the throngs of True Believers.

It's because they're both scared of heights.

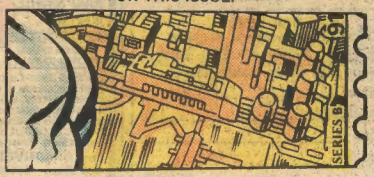
We're only kidding. As every comics fan knows, it's because he's the one and only "King."

Nuff said.

THIS IS IT! YOUR

MARVEL VALUE STAMP

FOR THIS ISSUE!



scanned by *Wizard*